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DIRECTOR

PSYCH KOBIRD/VNO GR CAMERA

REF: DIRECTOR 65183

1. CONSERVATIVE VIENNA "DIE PRESSE" (11/12 JAN 69)
FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR OTTO SCHULMEISTER
("IDEOLOGY INSTEAD OF MORALITY") SAYS SWEDISH DECISION
RECOGNIZE DRV IS MOST SIGNIFICANT TO OTHER WESTERN DEMOCRATIC
NEUTRALS LIKE AUSTRIA, BUT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT OTHER
NEUTRALS WILL FOLLOW SUIT IN NEAR FUTURE. EDITOR CONTENDS
SWEDISH DECISION WAS PREDICTABLE, LONG TIME IN COMING, AND
STEMMED FROM EARLIER POLICY DECISION ("WHITE PAPER" OF SUMMER
1968) THAT WESTERN NEUTRALITY COMPLETELY COMPATIBLE WITH AMERICAN
AMERICANISM. CITING 1968 EVENTS IN SWEDEN WHICH CULMINATED
IN VIEW THAT AMERICAN WAR IN VIETNAM WAS SIMPLY A "CRIMINAL"
ACT, EDITOR ASSERTS THAT SWEDEN HAS GRADUALLY TURNED FROM
HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT ON VIETNAM QUESTION TO IDEOLOGICAL
ENGAGEMENT WHICH PLACES ALL BLAME SQUARELY ON AMERICANS AND
"LEFT COMMUNISTS". REGRETTABLY, SUCH SIMPLIFICATION IGNORES
BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY FACTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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SWEDISH DECISION ALSO SNAKS OF OPPORTUNIST RESPONSE TO INTERNAL PRESSURES. MOST IMPORTANT, POLICY OF NEUTRALITY BASED ON IDEOLOGY INSTEAD OF MORALITY CAN LEAD TO SELF-DESTRUCTION OF NEUTRALITY ITSELF.

2. ABOVE EDITORIAL WAS BITTERLY ATTACKED IN SOCIALIST (SPOE) "ARBEITER-ZEITUNG" (12 JAN) BY PAUL BLAU WHO REFUTED CHARGES THAT SWEDEN IS ANTI-AMERICAN AND ASSERTED SCHULMEISTER IS AUSTRIAN AGENT OF AMERICAN "HAWKS" WHO VENTING HIS FURY AND DISAPPOINTMENT ON PUBLIC. BLAU WELCOMES SWEDISH DECISION

3. COMMUNIST "VOLKSSTIMME" (12 JAN) ALSO ATTACKS SCHULMEISTER PIECE, ASSERTING MORAL STANDARDS OF "DIE PRESS" ARE SET BY PENTAGON. AUTHOR JENOE KOSTMANN HAILS SWEDISH MOVE AND SAYS IT HIGH TIME AUSTRIA FOLLOWED SUIT.

4. POUCHING SCHULMEISTER EDITORIAL, BUT CAUTION THAT IT HAS RAISED SENSITIVE ISSUE "NEUTRALITY" WHICH NOW SEIZED UPON BY SPOE AND KPOE.

5. FILE: 200-126-088/2.

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